

## Majorca Revisited

You may be wondering why we are having another article on the Majorca trip of 2004. Well it's now less than 3 weeks until yet again the famous Preston Wheelers catch the plane to fly out for some serious training and relaxation in the sun. Well we hope it's going to be sunny anyway. In this report I am hoping to bring back some memories and tell you a bit about the trip from my eyes!! So be warned some secrets may be coming out!!

It was at the end of the 2003 season that I was approached by Henderson Travel (Scott Henderson) and was asked if I was interested in going on a training week in Majorca with the Wheelers. I must admit at the time I was very reluctant as I didn't really know many people that well, but in the end it sounded like such an amazing trip that I could not turn it down. And oh boy I was not disappointed. It was the beginning of March when we flew out into the sun and as this being only my second time on a plane I was even more excited.

On the trip was myself (Matt Hoyles), Scott Henderson, Gethin Butler, Neil Stirzaker, Rick Holmes, Andy Bray, Mark Grundy and Mike Smith. As you may remember we had no bikes as they had been left behind by the airline in Manchester. This left us no option but to hire some Halford's special mountain bikes from a local shop. How funny we must have looked travelling at 25 mph passing many cyclists on road bikes along Alcudia Drag Strip!!

Neil and Scott were sharing a room last year, which is good, as it meant we could all laugh at their escapades!!! One night after a hard ride I walked into their room to find Neil washing his bike in the bath!!! A highlight of the holiday has to be watching Scott trying to pack his bike away for the journey home. He finally managed to get it into the box before he was told that he had forgot to pack his wheels in first. Well he is known for his mechanical skills after all!! Maybe Scott will manage to build his own bike up this year!!

The funniest moment of the holiday for me had to be going to the welcoming meeting on the first night at the hotel. Half way through we could see Gethin falling asleep. Next minute we looked and he was fast asleep!!!

Every night we would ride the last 5 miles at about 28 mph along the drag strip before the big sprint. On one night Neil Stirzaker was blocked in with nowhere to go. This did not deter him as the next thing we knew he was riding through a tree canopy at the side of the road. Lets just say he still didn't manage to win the sprint.

Oh and cheers to the Scott, Gethin and Rick for our little trip through the Orient. We had already done about 60 miles climbing when I was talked into riding back with them. At this stage I was running out of drink and also energy bars etc. Soon after climbing over the orient I got a serious case of the Bonk. And funnily enough nobody offered me any water etc. They even managed to brag about how much that they had left. Oh just wait lads until this year. I think things might be slightly different!!

Well that's about it. Some secrets just have to be kept secrets. There is so much I want to tell you about this amazing trip. I hope that this has brought back some memories of the trip. I can't wait until we fly out this year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March for 11 nights. Last years trip was brilliant so thanks lads. I just can't wait to see what funny stories and mishaps happen this year!!!

**Matt Hoyles**